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Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 38

ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 7 December 1993 from the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you, in connection with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/1 of 8 October 1993, concerning the lifting of the oil embargo against South Africa, that the Transitional Executive Council has become operational as of this date.

(Signed) Anthony B. NYAKYI
Chairman of the
Intergovernmental Group to Monitor
the Supply and Shipping of Oil and
Petroleum Products to South Africa

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ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 7 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/1, adopted by consensus on 8 October 1993, which determined that the embargo on the supply of petroleum and petroleum products to South Africa, and on investment in the petroleum industry there, shall cease to have effect as of the date that the Transitional Executive Council becomes operational.

I am pleased to inform you that the Transitional Executive Council convened today in South Africa for its first formal meeting.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador

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Agenda items 8 and 47

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1995

Letter dated 9 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to raise with you the question of whether it may be possible to reopen item 47 of the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995".

I am raising this question with you in my capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary and following consultations with members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and other Permanent Representatives to the United Nations.

There are two reasons for this request:

First, it has been brought to my attention that there is a need for the General Assembly to provide formal authorization for the arrangements made by the Secretary-General to provide Secretariat staff for the work of preparing the fiftieth anniversary.

For this purpose a draft resolution has been drawn up and will be circulated for consultation and then submitted to the General Assembly for decision. The draft resolution has the support of members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

Secondly, there is a proposal initiated by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan and currently under consultation with a wide range of Member States to the effect that the General Assembly should decide, at its present session, that there should be convened early in 1995 a short special session of the

General Assembly, within the ambit of the forty-ninth session. That session would take place as part of the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and it would consider ways and means of strengthening the work of the United Nations in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.

The draft resolution enabling such a decision is under informal consideration amongst Permanent Representatives.

Accordingly, the purpose of the present note is to ask that arrangements be made for the General Assembly to consider reopening item 47 of its current agenda so that it may then consider the two matters referred to above.

In the event that such a decision is obtained, then I am certain that shortly thereafter the two matters would be placed before the Assembly under agenda item 47 and submitted for its substantive consideration and decision.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER, AM

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 114
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 10 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania on the sentences pronounced against the "Ilascu group" (see annex I) and the statement of the Government of Romania on the death penalty pronounced against Ilie Ilascu (see annex II), both dated 9 December 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ioan BARAC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX I

Declaration made on 9 December 1993 by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania on the sentences pronounced against the "Ilascu group"

It is with horror and indignation that we have learned that the patriot Ilie Ilascu was sentenced to death and the other members of the group were convicted to heavy and long detention. These sentences follow a judicial frame-up in the self-proclaimed "Transdniester republic" in Tiraspol that does not enjoy any recognition from the international community.

The only guilt of these patriots is that they have fought on the territory of their own country, the Republic of Moldova, a sovereign and independent State, Member of the United Nations, recognized by the international community. They have been convicted because they did not accept a diktat of the forces reminiscent of the old imperial Soviet regime.

This dramatic development proves once again that the presence of the 14th Army on the territory of the Republic of Moldova is a source of instability, abuse and crime.

The Government of the Russian Federation, in its turn, cannot be exonerated of responsibility for this crime, as we witness a violation of the unanimously recognized principle of democratic will that should govern any relations in the civilized international community.

The circumstances in which the so-called trial took place and the denying of the right to appeal of the detainees show the barbaric and inhuman character of this frame-up.

The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania condemns the illegal sentence given by an illegal court in despise of the fundamental human rights and urge the international community, all international fora, the Heads of State and Government, the Parliaments and non-governmental organizations to act with their full authority to determine the self-proclaimed authorities in Tiraspol to repeal forthwith these illegal sentences pronounced against innocent people.

ANNEX II

Statement issued on 9 December 1993 by the Government of Romania on the death penalty pronounced against Ilie Ilascu

The Government of Romania is extremely concerned by the sentences to death by firing squad for Ilie ILASCU and to heavy detention penalties for the other members of his group.

This cynical and criminal decision represents a defiance to the elementary norms of justice and human ethics which, at the same time, constitutes a real threat to the political stability and security in the region.

The adoption of such sentences proves once again the illegal statute of the self-proclaimed authorities in Tiraspol and defies any norms of the international humanitarian law.

The Government of Romania addresses an extremely urgent appeal to all democratic Governments, international organizations and political leaders urging them to act with a view to putting an immediate end to this tragic farce.

It is the hope of the Government of Romania that in these critical moments, those who are responsible for this sentence and its unpredictable consequences will repeal forthwith their decision.

In this crucial moment, the Government of Romania expresses its full solidarity and support for the group of patriots lead by Ilie Ilascu, a vivid symbol of courage and human dignity, of the audacious struggle for independence and territorial integrity of their country.

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Agenda items 114 and 115
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
ESTONIA AND LATVIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 10 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of an appeal by the President of the Republic of Moldova, His Excellency Mr. Mircea Snegur, to the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and heads of State and Government (annex I) and the text of a statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova on the fate of the political detainee Ilie Ilascu, sentenced to death, and five other defendants, sentenced to long terms in jail by the so-called "Supreme Court" of the self-styled "Dniester Republic" (annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the attached texts circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 114 and 115, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tudor PANTIRU
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Moldova to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Appeal made on 9 December 1993 by the President of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and heads of State and Government

On 9 December 1993, the illegal judicial authorities of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Transdniestr Republic (a phantom State created on the territory of the Republic of Moldova) announced the verdict in the trial of the political detainees known as the "Ilascu group".

Ilie Ilascu was sentenced to death by shooting and the other detainees to periods of imprisonment of from 2 to 15 years, with confiscation of their assets.

Thus the separatist leaders from Tiraspol have concluded a tragic political and judicial farce organized and managed by them, arrogantly breaking the fundamental principles the world community stands for: democracy, justice, freedom and humanism.

The efforts made by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova, the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, European Council, parliaments and Governments, politicians and statesmen to bring to an end this quasi-juridical trial and to hand over the prisoners to the constitutional judicial bodies have been unsuccessful.

The execution of the sentence will mean nothing else but a premeditated, horrible and squalid crime that cannot be tolerated. To prevent this crime we request your urgent and insistent intervention in order to take adequate measures to prevent the execution of this illegal and inhuman sentence, and to facilitate the unconditional handing over of the detainees to the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Moldova.

Mircea SNEGUR
President of the Republic of Moldova

ANNEX II

Statement issued on 9 December 1993 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova

With the citizen Ilie Ilascu having been condemned to death, the so-called "trial" in Tiraspol of the six patriots of the Republic of Moldova is over.

It was absolutely clear from the very beginning that this process was nothing else but a perfectly framed up, exclusively political farce, which is characteristic of the conflict in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova. It is actually a hot-blooded fight between the old and new, between two opposite social-political systems, one Bolshevik and dictatorial, and the other pursuing an in-depth process of fundamental democratic reforms.

The six persons have been condemned not for serious penal misdemeanours but for their political beliefs, for their refusal to recognize an impostor, neo-communist and totalitarian regime. That constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The sentence has been pronounced. However, for the so-called judges, there is much more at stake than the mere life and destiny of a group of people. This is an attempt to prove to the world that such regimes do not need international recognition to exist.

Moreover, by pronouncing the verdict, the leaders from Tiraspol intended to prove that they were able to ignore world opinion, easily disregarding numerous appeals and démarches that had been addressed to them by heads of State, the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organizations. At the same time, the recent decision taken at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe at Rome has been ignored.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova observes in good faith the principles of peaceful settlement of the conflict in its eastern districts. Unfortunately, the judicial farce that has taken place in Tiraspol is a painful reminder of the other model of settlement that is imposed on us: offensive, defiant, from a position of force.

The Decree of President Mircea Snegur of 9 December 1993 has declared both the juridical trial in Tiraspol and the sentence null and void. However, the peril of the consequences of that sentence remains real, endangering not only the destiny of the six persons convicted, but also the social and political stability of the country.

Having stated this, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova appeals to all democratic Governments, the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Council of Europe to intervene promptly in order to prevent the execution of the sentence, and to speak out categorically in favour of handing over the political detainees to the constitutional authorities in Chisinau.